

SITUATION REPORT NO. 7
INCIDENT NO. 96-37
DATE: April 19, 1996 **TIME: 9:00 a.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58504

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flood. (Separate situation reports are being issued regarding Devils Lake, incident #96-01.)
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGE: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been increasing releases from Baldhill Dam to prevent uncontrolled flooding downstream on the Sheyenne River. Inflows into Lake Ashtabula were 6,000 cfs (cubic feet per second) on April 18 and have risen to 7,100 cfs today. This inflow is expected to stay at this level for a few days. As a result of these high inflows, the releases from the dam may be as high as 5,500 cfs. The result will be high Sheyenne River levels, as high as 18.5 feet in Valley City and 19 feet in Lisbon. Kindred will also be seriously impacted when these releases reach there. The Sheyenne River at Valley City is currently 17.2 feet, 4.2 feet above flood stage.

The releases from the Jamestown and Pipestem reservoirs are being increased to prevent uncontrolled flooding downstream in the James River.

A family living at the Cooperstown Bible Camp was evacuated because of levels on the Sheyenne River. The river reached 19.05 feet near Cooperstown on April 18.

Cass County officials report County Roads 36 and 16 south of Horace have water flowing over them from Sheyenne River flood waters. In the Kindred area, water levels have been dropping but will come up later, based on management requirements at Baldhill Dam.

Revised projections by the National Weather Service call for the Red River at Grand Forks to crest at 44.5 to 45.5 feet on April 21-22, 1996, a foot higher than earlier forecasts. The river level at Grand Forks was 42.9 feet on April 18.

Red River waters caused flooding of agricultural land and threatened farmsteads throughout Walshville, Pulaski, and Acton townships in Walsh County on April 18. Flood waters reached the shoulders of I-29 in the Walsh County area.

While the level on the Park River in Grafton began to recede, the level of the river's north branch rose, overflowing a quarter of mile of County Road 12 flooding agricultural land and threatening the

communities of Hoople and Nash. County officials expect the river levels to rise again in Grafton. The water level may also rise when releases from Homme Dam on the South Branch of the Park River are increased from 400 to 600 cfs.

As of April 18, Walsh County and township officials closed 65 sections of county and township roads, which affected up to 100 miles of the county's transportation system.

A damage assessment of residential impact by the American Red Cross revealed 26 buildings were flooded in Minto.

Grafton city officials have begun conducting damage assessment, but flood waters are still high in many areas of the town. Thus far, officials have determined that approximately 1,200 to 1,500 families were impacted by the flooding. Preliminary reports also indicate that 240 yards of sand and 11,000 sandbags were used on April 15-16; \$12,500 was spent for emergency repair of graveled streets and alleyways; and utilities to 20 homes and businesses were disconnected.

The Red River at Drayton rose 3.6 feet to 37.5 feet on April 18; a crest of 41-42 feet is anticipated mid-next week. The river rose 3.5 feet to 40.8 feet at Pembina; a crest of 51-52 feet is expected late next week. Ice jam potential remains on the northern reaches of the Red, which may cause dangerous river level fluctuations.

The Pembina River at Necho crested at 23.4 feet on April 18 and was expected to fall during the next 48 hours.

St. Thomas in Pembina County was affected by overland flooding requiring a sandbag operation.

In Ramsey County, flood waters were flowing over County Road #10, a major access road. Water was also flowing over 15 township roads. This localized flooding is being caused by frozen drainage systems.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: In addition to previous reports: Walsh County Community Health Services and Walsh County Social Services.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: Volunteer efforts continued in northeast North Dakota where the American Red Cross reported that as of April 18, 13,000 meals had been served to displaced families and volunteers. The Red Cross job director and damage assessment officer were conducting a detailed assessment of impacts on individuals, families, and living quarters within the region where possible.

The Salvation Army has distributed up to 1,000 cleanup kits in the upper Red River Valley. The kits were donated by 3M in Minneapolis. In Fargo, a Salvation Army canteen is on standby.

Members of the Grafton Volunteer Fire Department recovered two propane tanks that had floated away from a mobile home in Grafton. They also helped with sandbagging operations and used boats to ferry residents to and from their homes.

Approximately 20 members of a Mennonite Colony in Walsh County have been helping with sandbag operations.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Cass County workers completed efforts to break up ice jams in the Sheyenne River channel south of Horace.

Valley City officials are responding to the expected increased Sheyenne River levels. Significant flood fight actions will be required.

The Grafton Mayor signed a disaster declaration on April 15. The Pembina Mayor signed an emergency declaration on April 17.

Walsh County Community Health Services provided tetanus shots in Minto and Grafton.

Pembina County Township officers were assessing problems caused by flood waters surrounding homes.

A sandbagging operation was required in St. Thomas in Pembina County.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Local requests for assistance have been responded to.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Omaha and St. Paul Districts, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are providing technical, supply and equipment assistance to state and local officials.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: None at this time.

Signed _____

Douglas C. Friez

State Director